

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 16-20 are presently withdrawn from consideration.

I. Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-15 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-23 of U.S. Patent No. 6,375,876 ("Kessler"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Submitted with this response is a terminal disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,375,876. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejoinder

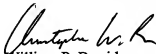
Applicants respectfully submit that because claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above, claims 16-20 should be rejoined and similarly allowed as all withdrawn claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement and rejoinder of claims 16-20 are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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